

Executive  
Proclamation  
State of South Dakota  
Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, On December 24, 1784, 60 circuit-riding preachers were called together in Baltimore, Maryland, to consider John Wesley's plan for organizing preachers; and,

WHEREAS, This historic conference gave birth to the first denomination to be organized in America; and,

WHEREAS, The five churches forming the Pan-Methodist Bicentennial are the United Methodist Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the Free Methodist Church, with combined inclusive membership of over 14 million, all tracing their roots to the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition; and,

WHEREAS, The first Methodist Church services held in the Dakota Territory were held in Yankton in 1868, and the First Methodist Church was built at Elk Point in 1870: and,

WHEREAS, In addition to providing retirement homes in Mitchell and Watertown, Methodists operate a hospital in Mitchell and Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, which is this year celebrating its centennial;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota,  
do hereby proclaim 1984, as the

## BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF METHODISM

in South Dakota, and I urge all South Dakotans to share in this year commemorating 200 years of Methodism in America and to reflect on what the 116 years of sacred service to South Dakota have meant to our people and our state.



ATTEST:

Alice Kundert

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand and caused to be affixed  
the Great Seal of the State of South  
Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City,  
this Thirty-first Day of May, in the  
Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and  
Eighty-Four

~~WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR~~

WILLIAM J. JACKSON, GOVERNOR

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY  
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE APPEARING ON THIS SLIDE OF MICROFILM IS AN ACCURATE REPRODUCTION OF THE  
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